



Sexual Violence Committed Against University of Alaska Students, by Gender

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This Fact Sheet presents separate estimates of sexual violence, including *sexual misconduct* and *sexual assault* victimization *both on and off campus*, against women and men enrolled at the University of Alaska (UA) in spring semester 2016. Women- and men-specific estimates are provided for the *UA system as a whole only*. The results presented here are based on the survey responses of a randomly selected sample of 1,982 undergraduate and graduate students who were enrolled at any of the three UA major administrative units (MAUs) — UA Anchorage (UAA), UA Fairbanks (UAF), or UA Southeast (UAS) during spring semester 2016.

In spring semester 2016 the Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center (AJSAC) conducted the *University of Alaska Campus Climate Survey*. The primary objective of this online survey was to establish baseline prevalence measures of sexual misconduct and sexual assault against the total population of UA students, as well as to establish baseline prevalence measures for each of the three MAUs within the UA system. In addition, the *University of Alaska Campus Climate Survey* measured student academic outcomes and overall perceptions of campus climate.

UA Student Population. In spring semester 2016, a total of 25,177 undergraduate and graduate students were enrolled in the UA system. Across the entire system, women comprised a majority (58.2%) of UA students. Women represented more than two-thirds of all students at UAS (66.8%), 57.9% of students at UAA, and 56.1% of students at UAF. For two MAUs — UAA and UAS — women accounted for even larger shares of the *graduate* student population. At UAA, nearly two-thirds (64.2%) of all graduate students were women; at UAS, nearly three quarters (73.7%) of all graduate students were women. In contrast, at UAF a

smaller percentage — but, still a majority (56.0%) — of graduate students were women.

Sexual Misconduct. *Sexual misconduct* refers to unwanted, uninvited, or coerced touching of a sexual nature, or unwanted or uninvited sexual commentary. Survey respondents were asked, “Since January 2015, has someone attempted or succeeded in having unwanted, uninvited, or coerced touching of a sexual nature or unwanted/uninvited sexual commentary with you under any circumstances (on or off campus), or do you suspect someone did?”

Every survey respondent was provided the following examples of *sexual misconduct*: kissing without permission; forced kissing; touching of body or private parts in a sexual way without permission; grabbing, fondling, or rubbing up against a person in a sexual way (even if over clothing); taking a sexual experience further than wanted even if consent was given for minor sexual contact such as kissing or touching, without it leading to intercourse; and, lewd or blatant sexual comments that make a person feel uncomfortable, uneasy, or unsafe.

Sexual Assault. *Sexual assault* refers to nonconsensual or unwanted sexual contact with penetration, even if consent was given for minor sexual contact such as kissing or touching. Survey respondents were asked, “Since January 2015, has someone attempted or succeeded in having nonconsensual or unwanted sexual contact with you under any circumstances (on or off campus), or do you suspect someone did?”

Every survey respondent was provided the following examples of *sexual assault*: sexual penetration with a finger

or object (someone putting their finger or an object in the vagina or anus); oral sex (someone’s mouth or tongue making contact with genitals); anal sex (a penis being put into an anus); and sexual intercourse (a penis being put into a vagina).

Results. Figure 1 presents gender-specific estimates of sexual misconduct and sexual assault for students at *all MAUs in the University of Alaska system both on and off campus*. Women-specific estimates are depicted in yellow and men-specific estimates are depicted in light green.

Violence against women. Between January 2015 and spring semester 2016, an estimated 14.9% — or more than 1 out of every 7 — of women students at UA experienced sexual misconduct, sexual assault, or both. Put another way, between January 2015 and spring semester 2016, an estimated 2,183 women students at UA experienced sexual misconduct, sexual assault, or both. Nearly a third of these 2,183 women victims (n=659; 30.2%) experienced at least one attempted or completed sexual assault. (Data not shown.)

Violence against men. Between January 2015 and spring semester 2016, an estimated 5.8% — or almost 1 out of every 17 — of men students at UA experienced sexual misconduct, sexual assault, or both. Put another way, between January 2015 and spring semester 2016, an estimated 610 men students at UA experienced sexual misconduct, sexual assault, or both. Over one-third of these 610 men victims (n=210; 34.4%) experienced at least one attempted or completed sexual assault. (Data not shown.)

Statistical tests were performed to assess the observed differences between women and men students. Results show that two of the observed differences — sexual

misconduct (only) and both sexual misconduct and sexual assault — were statistically significant. More specifically, women students were significantly more likely than men students to experience sexual misconduct (only) between January 2015 and spring semester 2016. In addition, women students were also more likely than men students to experience both sexual misconduct and sexual assault between January 2015 and spring semester 2016. There was no statistically significant difference between women and men students in experiencing sexual assault (only) between January 2015 and spring semester 2016.

SUMMARY

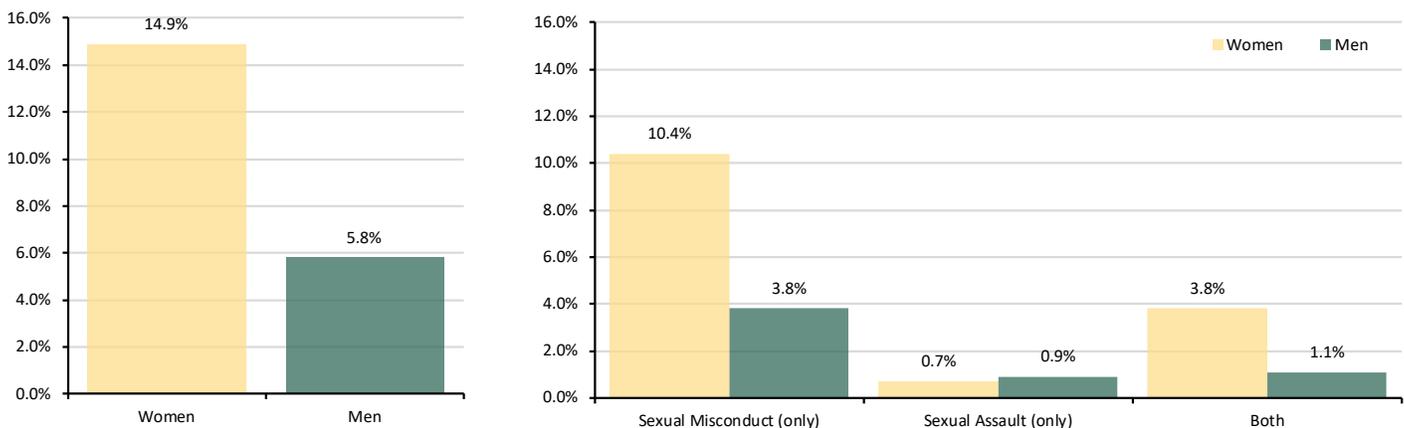
This Fact Sheet presents gender-specific estimates of sexual misconduct and sexual assault victimization against women and men students at *all MAUs in the UA system* between January 2015 and spring semester 2016 *both on and off campus*. Prevalence estimates of sexual misconduct (only), sexual assault (only), and both sexual misconduct and sexual assault for both men and women students are presented.

The percentage of UA students who experienced sexual misconduct, sexual assault, or both sexual misconduct and sexual assault varied by gender. An estimated 14.9% of women students — 2,183 women — experienced sexual misconduct, sexual assault, or both sexual misconduct and sexual assault between January 2015 and spring semester 2016. An estimated 5.8% of men students — 610 men - experienced sexual misconduct, sexual assault, or both sexual misconduct and sexual assault between January 2015 and spring semester 2016.

There were statistically significant differences between women and men students in sexual violence experiences.

Figure 1.

Percentage of University of Alaska students who experienced sexual misconduct, sexual assault, or both from January 2015 to Spring 2016, by gender



Source of data : University of Alaska Campus Climate Survey, 2016

Women students were significantly more likely than men students to experience sexual misconduct (only), as well as both sexual misconduct and sexual assault between January

2015 and spring semester 2016. There was no statistically significant difference between women and men student sexual assault (only) victimizations.

NOTES

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SURVEY AND METHODOLOGY

The *University of Alaska Campus Climate Survey* was modeled after the *Campus Climate Survey Recommendations* prepared by the White House Task Force to Protect Students From Sexual Assault (<https://www.notalone.gov/assets/ovw-climate-survey.pdf>). The *University of Alaska Campus Climate Survey* was modified to include only the following sections from the Task Force recommendations: the general climate of the school, the prevalence of sexual violence, the context around the incidents of sexual violence, rape myth acceptance, and behavior questions related to bystander confidence and readiness to help. In addition, the *University of Alaska Campus Climate Survey* included two other sections: academic engagement, and family and peer attachment. The criteria for inclusion in the *University of Alaska Campus Climate Survey* were: must have been a student enrolled in at least 1 credit hour in the spring of 2016 at the University of Alaska, must have been a UA student over the age of 18, and must have been a student with an email address on file with the university. The total population of students at the University of Alaska in the spring of 2016 was 25,177. After taking into account all inclusion criteria, 810 students were removed, leaving a total of 24,367 students in the sampling frame. From this sampling frame, 10,000 students were randomly selected to receive the online survey. Of these 10,000 students, 9,857 were successfully contacted (143 could not be contacted at their preferred email address). Of this number, a total of 1,982 students responded to the survey. The final response rate was 20.1%.

LIMITATIONS AND STRENGTHS

Important limitations include: 1) This survey provides baseline estimates for the number of victims and not the number of total victimization incidents that occurred. 2) These estimates are only generalizable to students that were enrolled at UA during the spring of 2016. 3) This survey only includes students who were aged 18 and older. 4) These estimates may be conservative because of the continuing stigma of reporting sexual violence.

Important strengths include: 1) This survey presents a more holistic view of sexual violence committed against UA students by asking students about sexual misconduct and sexual assault victimizations that occurred both *on and off campus*. 2) This survey uses an established survey protocol vetted and recommended by the White House and the Bureau of Justice Statistics. 3) This survey includes both men and women victims in the baseline estimates of sexual misconduct and sexual assault. 4) This survey presents the first baseline estimates of sexual misconduct and sexual assault against UA students; these estimates can be utilized by the University of Alaska to impact and evaluate prevention efforts and education programs for UA students.

ALASKA JUSTICE STATISTICAL ANALYSIS CENTER



ABOUT

The Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center (AJSAC) was established by Administrative Order No. 89, signed by Governor William Sheffield on July 2, 1986. Since that time the AJSAC has been housed within the University of Alaska Anchorage Justice Center. The AJSAC assists Alaska criminal justice agencies, as well as state and local governments and officials, with the development, implementation, and evaluation of criminal justice programs and policies through the collection, analysis, and reporting of crime and justice statistics.

Since 1972, the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) and its predecessor agency, the National Criminal Justice Information and Statistics Service, has provided support to state and territorial governments to establish and operate Statistical Analysis Centers (SACs) to collect, analyze, and report statistics on crime and justice to federal, state, and local levels of government, and to share state-level information nationally. There are currently 53 SACs located in the United States and its Territories. The AJSAC is a member of the Justice Research and Statistics Association (JRSA), a national nonprofit organization comprised of SAC directors, researchers, and practitioners dedicated to policy-oriented research and analysis.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Location

The Alaska Justice Statistical Analysis Center (AJSAC) is housed in the University of Alaska Anchorage Justice Center, which is located on the second floor of the UAA/APU Consortium Library, Suite 213.

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ON THE WEB

To learn more about the AJSAC research, please visit our website at: <http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/ajsac>.

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